

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP (WilmerHale)

Locations: Washington, D.C. (HQ)

Industries: Legal

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

DESCRIPTION:

WilmerHale is High Risk. The company yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. The company implements race and identity-based policies that replace merit, excellence, and integrity with preferential treatment and outcomes. WilmerHale embraces corporate initiatives that redirect its central focus from business goals to partisan policies and divisive issues. This approach fails to safeguard free exercise, free speech, and free enterprise.

Corporate Weaponization

Has canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries. Medium Risk

WilmerHale received a score of 100 on the 2025 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. The company recruits employees based on sexual identity issues. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (1)(2). However, WilmerHale has not publicly canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs (3).

Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs. High Risk

WilmerHale's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (1)(2). However, the company does not publish charitable giving guidelines (3).

Employment policies fail to protect against viewpoint or other discrimination and/or are ideological in nature. High Risk

WilmerHale's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). WilmerHale is Mansfield Certified, indicating its support of DEI in its recruitment, hiring, promotions, and leadership composition (3)(4). However, the company does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (5).

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

Uses corporate reputation to support causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression. High Risk

WilmerHale's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy. By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). WilmerHale advocated for abortion rights in Ohio in the 2023 case Preterm Cleveland v. Yost (3).

Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression. High Risk

WilmerHale's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. Additionally, the company has pledged philanthropic support of at least one organization or event that promotes sex and gender ideology. By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). WilmerHale is a champion partner of PFLAG, an LGBTQ+ activist group that promotes books for children with sexually explicit and gender fluid content and advocates against laws that inform parents of their child's gender dysphoria or prevent unapproved transgender medical treatments for minors (3)(4)(5). WilmerHale was a Silver level sponsor of the 2025 HRC National Dinner (6). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of WilmerHale using corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies (7).

Uses corporate political actions and/or financial contributions for ideological, non-business purposes. High Risk

WilmerHale's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives. By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). WilmerHale is a partner of the Center for Reproductive Rights, building case law, advocating before policy makers, and engaging in litigation to challenge bans and restrictions on access to abortion (3). The firm is a part of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance, committed to work on initiatives that fight "systemic racism" (4)(5). WilmerHale does not operate a PAC or engage in lobbying at this time (6)(7)(8).

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